

1 CLAIMS:

- 5 1. A method of resetting a password on a consumer device comprising:
displaying, by a particular consumer device, one or more items of information that are
specific to the particular consumer device;
communicating the one or more items of information to a central location;
performing a mathematical function on the one or more items of information to obtain
a central key at the central location;
10 entering the central key into the consumer device;
performing, in the consumer device, a mathematical function on the one or more items
of information to obtain a local key;
allowing the resetting of a password on the consumer device if the central key is found
to have to the local key for a predetermined without entering the original password.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the mathematical functions are one-way hashing
functions
- 20 3. The method of claim 1 where the one or more items of information that are specific to
the particular consumer device are unique to the particular consumer device.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more items of information that are specific
to the particular consumer device are rare, but not necessarily unique.